

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SY-10 ABF-01 /017 W

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P 101548Z DEC 73

FM AMEMOASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5572

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/EX AND SY/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASUP, ASEC, LE

SUBJECT: SUPPORT LEBANESE MILITARY GUARDING CHANCERY

1. SINCE MAY, 1973, FIGHTING BETWEEN GOL/FEDAQUEEN, LEBANESE MILITARY HAVE GREATLY INCREASED NUMBER TROOPS GUARDING CHANCERY, AND THEY NOW NUMBER APPROXIMATELY 100. THEIR HOUSING CONSISTS OF SMALL, WELL USED TENTS WITHOUT FLOORING OR HEATING. LOCAL COMMANDER RECENTLY APPROACHED EMBASSY WITH REQUEST BARRACKS BE BUILT FOR THEM IN PARKING LOT ADJACENT CHANCERY BUILDING. THIS OFFICIAL JUSTIFIABLY CONCERNED WELFARE HIS MEN IN VIEW APPROACHING COLD, WINDY, AND RAINY WINTER SEASON. AFTER DETERMINING CONSTRUCTION BARRACKS WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY \$10,000, EMBASSY INFORMED COMMANDER THIS OUT OF QUESTION. HE HAS NOW SUGGESTED EMBASSY PROVIDE NEW TECTS, INSTALL FLOORING, AND PROVIDE HEATERS. LATTER TWO ITEMS WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY \$2,500 AND FUNDS FOR THEM HAVE BEEN REQUESTED SEPTEL (REF BEIRUT 13953). TENTS PRESENT SPECIAL PROBLEM BEYOND EMBASSY'S IMMEDIATE ABILITY RESOLVE ACD AUSISTANCE ADDRESSEES THEREFORE REQUESTED.

2. WHILE RECOGNIZING THIS REQUEST MAY BE CONSIDERED UNUSUAL, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT MOST IMPORTANT COOPERATE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES SINCE EMBASSY SECURITY DEPENDS IN LARGE MEASURE THEIR GOODWILL AND ABILITY REACT IN EMER-
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GENCY SITUATION; THEREFORE, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE

DEPARTMENT EXPLORING WITH APPROPRIATE DOD OFFICES AND EMBASSY BONN WITH U.S. MILITARY SURPLUS PROPERTY AUTHORITIES POSSIBILITY ACQUIRING AND SHIPPING ASAP BY MAC FLIGHTS MILITARY TENTS ADEQUATE ACCOMMODATE 100 MEN. IDEALLY, THEY SHOULD BE NEW AND ADEQUATE ACCOMMODATE 10-12 MEN EACH.

3. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IT IS COMMON PRACTICE LEBANON FOR THOSE RECEIVING PROTECTION LOCAL MILITARY AND POLICE TO PROVIDE DEGREE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT. ALSO, THAT HIGHER LEBANESE MILITARY AUTHORITY UNABLE OR UNWILLING PROVIDE HOUSING BEYOND INADEQUATE ACCOMMODATIONS NOW ON SITE.

4. SINCE LEBANESE TROOPS ALREADY SUFFERING FROM EXPOSURE WIND AND RAIN, EMBASSY FEELS IT SHOULD ACT ON THIS MATTER AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE AND, HOPEFULLY, WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS. PLEASE ADVISE TELEGRAPHICALLY WHAT HELP CAN BE PROVIDED.
BUFFUM

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